

Voice of the Vineyard

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." (Luke 2:11-12)



President's Message



The Best Christmas...Ever!

Many years ago when we had four small children and were living in Minneapolis, Minnesota, I experienced "the best Christmas, ever!" I am certain that our children, all under the age of seven at the time, were too young to hold in memory the joy of that one Christmas, but I can, and do still. President Sonne worked long hours for the major department store chain in the area. He was rarely home and so "Christmas" was all up to me. I had somehow learned that there was a struggling, young family with two small children about the ages of our two oldest who lived in our ward. For many reasons they did not attend church too often. The mother worked at a nursing home facility doing laundry. For many of us, doing sheets, towels, and clothing is not too daunting a task. This young mother, however, had been born minus one hand and part of that same arm. For her, doing laundry was almost impossible. Her husband was not only disabled, but had recently suffered a stroke that put him into a wheelchair, yet he was the primary caretaker of the two children! He was only in his mid-thirties. I determined to try to make Christmas a bit brighter for them and much more meaningful for our family.

The older children and I planned and shopped and cooked and shopped some more. Each of our two oldest picked out presents - clothes and toys they thought the boy and girl would like. Our offering for them was certainly far from grandiose, but it was heartfelt. We anticipated the scheduled delivery with great excitement. My parents were coming to spend a few days with us at Christmas and so we decided to pick them up at the airport and then "play Santa" on the way home. The family lived in a trailer park and we had a bit of trouble locating their place in the dark. Soon we had checked out the situation and made our plan. We would play "Ding Dong Ditch" after ever so quietly loading their front steps with presents for each, canned goods for their shelves,

and "fixins" for a Christmas turkey dinner. We were so excited as a family. We did not get to see or hear their reactions as they made their discovery upon opening their front door, but we each felt what it meant to give the gift of Christmas to another. I will never forget how I felt because as a family we had served others, not because we had been asked or assigned to do so. We had lovingly, willingly, and enthusiastically experienced "Christmas."

In his remarks Sunday night, December 2nd, President Hinckley reminded us that for many, Christmas is a less than happy time. We should say to others, not "Merry Christmas," rather, "It is Christmastime. What can I do to help you? Are your burdens too heavy to carry? Is your sorrow too painful?" He reminded us that "Christmas is the embodiment of ..kindness."

In the December 2007 *Ensign* Elder Merrill J. Bateman concludes his article, "A Season for Angels" with these words:

What is the lesson for us today as we enter a new Christmas season? Who will minister to those in need? Who are the angels that will prepare the way for His return? Miracles during this Christmas season require our faith and works. As we sing the hymns of Christmas and speak of angels sent to earth to witness the Savior's birth in the meridian of time, may we use the occasion and minister to those in need in our day. May we be reminded of our promises to "bear one another's burdens, to mourn with those that mourn, yea, and comfort, and to stand as witnesses of God at all times, and in all things and in all places, and be numbered with those of the first resurrection, that [we] may have eternal life." (Mosiah 18:8-9)

May you make Christmas 2007 your
"Best Christmas...Ever!"
With love and our gratitude for each of you -
President and Sister Sonne

Master Teacher



SISTER
BURKHART



ELDER
KOSKINEN



Master Finder



ELDER
COSS Y LEON

Happy Birthday

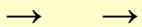


22 Dec	Elder Snajdar	03 Jan	Sister Moin
22 Dec	Elder Zundel*	04 Jan	Elder Letoa
23 Dec	Elder Bravo	08 Jan	Sister Hansen
23 Dec	Elder Jackson	09 Jan	Elder Riggs
25 Dec	Elder Jardon	11 Jan	Sister Fleming
31 Dec	Sister Neil	14 Jan	Sister Hernandez
31 Dec	Sister Wotring*	16 Jan	Elder Brannum
01 Jan	Sister Zundel*	18 Jan	Elder Barrientos
02 Jan	Elder Harrison	18 Jan	Elder Štrbački

*Senior Missionary

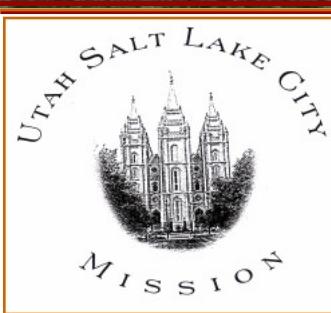


New Mission Logo



Many thanks to Elder Ruano and Elder Zeck. We appreciate all who contributed ideas as well as pictures. In reality, all contributions are represented in spirit if not in actuality, because we are the

UTAH SALT LAKE CITY MISSION!!!



Baptisms: Nov

Helaman.....	27
Mill Creek.....	34
Moroni.....	20
Pioneer.....	11
Temple.....	19
Tooele.....	09
West Valley.....	28
Wyoming.....	0

Mission Totals: Nov 138 Oct 131

When you send
your prayers
UP ↑
Blessings
Come
Down ↓
(Wisdom from Elder McNamara's Grandmother.)



Certified Teacher

Elder Coss y León
Elder Snajdar
Elder Noel

Skilled Teacher

Sister Morin
Elder Sanchez



Coaching the Van Driver II Course

Elder Kubal Elder Rigg



Assistants to the President:

What an amazing time to be on a mission. For many of us, this will be our first Christmas away from home. Let us take this sacred time to put off the world and center our thoughts and hearts on the true message of this holiday.

In the hymn "Jesus of Nazareth, Savior and King" is the why behind our celebration on December 25th.

Jesus of Nazareth, Savior and King!
Triumphant over death, Life thou didst bring
Leaving Thy Father's throne, on earth to live,
Thy work to do alone, Thy life to give.

The great Jehovah, God over all, Creator and Lord condescended to this earth. He left His Father's throne to be born a baby in the humblest of circumstances, to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and Advocate to the Father.

That is our message from Wendover to Rawlins. As we are set apart from the world, we all must take this time to fully dedicate ourselves to this great cause, especially during this season. Let our hearts be one with Christ's as His is with the Father.

With our Prayers and Love,
Elder Rigg, Elder Kubal,
& Elder Jackson



Welcome New Missionaries!

Incoming December 19, 2007



Elder Hamer
Baileyville,
Illinois



Elder Barrientos*
Frederick,
Maryland



Sister Tanner
Granite Bay,
California



Elder Wiley
Leander,
Texas

Spanish*
Tonga**



Elder Baier
Waverly,
New York



Elder Polaunga**
Nukualofa,
Tonga



Elder Štrbački
Bečeji,
Serbia



Elder Ramos*
Plano,
Texas



Sister Sanchez*
Escondido,
California



Elder Kiester
Thomson,
Georgia



Elder Hunt
Frankston,
Texas

Welcome New Senior

Missionary



Sister Elizabeth Parry joins our mission office staff. She arrived here on November 19th, and is serving her mission from her home, just a mile away. She moved to Salt Lake City in June from Washington State, where she was born and lived for 72 years. She joined the church at age 19 and is the first in her family to embrace the Gospel. She has five children, one daughter and four sons, two of whom served missions. She now has 11 grandchildren, 4 of whom have served missions, with the 5th now serving in the Argentina Mendoza Mission.

Sister Parry has a deep love for the Lord, and has been greatly blessed over her lifetime. She is happy to know that quite a few of her ancestors have accepted the Gospel on the other side of the veil, and she is hoping more will do so as time goes on. She loves to read, study, and learn; to create all kinds of things with her mind, heart and hands; to dig in the soil and to garden. She especially enjoys figuring out how to do something or fix something.

Look for Sister Parry in the reception area and give her a big Mission Welcome!

Enthused about 600 Baptisms???



Elder Evans

YES!!!!

Beginning September 1st, our mission goal has been 600 baptisms by year's end. Through many prayers, much fasting and hard work, we are seeing this miracle come to pass. Thanks to all of you wonderful Elders and Sisters...and the help of the Lord in this great endeavor.

Missionaries Waiting for Visas



Elder Rojas
Mexico Guadalajara
South Mission



Elder Miller
Argentina Buenos
Aires South Mission



Departing Missionaries



Elder Moniati Mohetau
Liahona High School
P.O. Box 60
Tongatapu, Tonga
011-676-37471
bamaca02@yahoo.com

Well, my time is over, but my work is not over (3 Nephi 15:9)
"Behold, I am the law and the light, look unto me and endure to the end, and ye shall live, for unto him that endureth to the end will I give eternal life."

Stay faithful and do all you can Elders and Sisters to find the lost sheep of Zion, and bring them to our Savior. To my Polynesian Warriors, forget yourselves and serve with honor. To the Fijian Elders, slow down, don't go too fast.

I know that God lives and Jesus is the Christ, the Son of a living God, that Joseph Smith was a prophet, the Book of Mormon is true and is another testimony of Jesus Christ. To all the Elders and Sisters: Do your best and the Lord will do the rest. 'Bye for now, but not forever. God be with you 'til we meet again.

M E R R Y
C H R I S T M A S .
Love,
Elder Mohetau

Elder Jarom Yan-Ming Chung
13043 Mountain Crest Circle
Draper, Utah 84020
(801) 495-2649
chunkychipmunk4@yahoo.com



Oh Missionaries..

This has been the best nine months of my life... Well, you know what I mean. It really has been the greatest blessing of my life to serve with such giants of the gospel. As I occasionally visit, I truly can feel of the power you possess as missionaries. It's not a wonder why the mission baptizes so many, because the Lord truly works through you all. Seriously, y'all are amazing.

So... my last statement... never thought this would come. The mission never was a sacrifice; it has always been a blessing. Treat everyday like your last because your last day will come. When it does, make sure that you have done all you could have. Be obedient! There is no excuse for disobedience. Do all that you can because it's what your Heavenly Father wants you to do. I love the gospel. The church is true, and I loved being a missionary. Peace out, The Former Elder Chung



Wise Men Still Seek Him



It is even more wonderfully true that He still seeks us—whatever we may be. He still extends his divine invitation: *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him and he with me."*

(Revelation 3:20)



*May you each be blessed
with peace, happiness,
and the joy that comes
from serving our
Heavenly Father.*

The Doctrinal Basis for Missionary Work

"We do not preach and teach in order to bring people into the Church or to increase our membership. We do not preach and teach just to persuade people to live better lives. We honor and appreciate the many ministers and others who are involved in the kind of ministry that makes bad men good and good men better. That is important, but we offer something more. You can qualify for the terrestrial kingdom instead of the celestial kingdom without the aid of this Church. We are concerned with a higher destination.

The purpose of our missionary work is to help the children of God fulfill a condition prescribed by our Savior and Redeemer. We preach and teach in order to baptize the children of God so that they can be saved in the celestial kingdom instead of being damned in a lesser kingdom. **We do missionary work in order to baptize.** That is the doctrinal basis of missionary work." (Elder Dallin H. Oaks)